

At 5:00 a. m. (5 hours) the artillery preparation began, and proceeded with vigor until the hours for the attack, 6:00 a. m. (6 hours). It was directed against the enemy's first line positions just east of Grimaucourt, and particularly against the two enemy strong points, Haute-court and Hermeville.

At exactly 6:00 a. m. (6 hours) the First Battalion and Third Battalion moved out straight to their fronts, two companies in assault and two companies in support, assaulting companies deploying at wide intervals, support companies in double line of combat groups. The visibility was extremely bad on account of very dense fog, and the assaulting companies almost immediately ran into heavy machine gun fire all along the front.

At 6:15 (6 hours and 15 minutes) the Second Battalion moved out of Moranville in assault formation in a northeasterly direction, as directed by the regimental order, to move toward the southern edge of Haute-court and outflank the enemy's position in Montricelle Bois. The advance of this battalion was delayed by its late march from Chatillon. After its advance was started, the battalion commander discovered that a wide gap existed between the First Battalion and Third Battalion, and he changed the direction of his attack, throwing his battalion into the gap and advancing in a direction due eastward. The advance